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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 46/37 F, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". The operative part of the resolution reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Encourages the regional centres to continue intensifying their efforts, in accordance with their mandates, in promoting cooperation among the States in their respective regions with a view to facilitating the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament;
>
> "2. Commends the Secretary-General for all the efforts he has made to assist the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities, and requests him to continue to provide all the necessary support to the centres;
>
> "3. Appeals once again to Member States, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes of activities of the regional centres and their effective implementation;
>
> "4. Decides that, to ensure the continued financial viability of the regional centres, the administrative costs of the centres shall be financed from the regular budget;
>
> "5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL CENTRES

A. Regional Centre in Africa

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was established in 1986. It functions under the auspices of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which acts as the focal point for coordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs,

programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The Centre is located at Lomé, Togo. The present report covers the period from August 1991 to July 1992.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

4. The Centre continued to carry out its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. According to that resolution, "the Centre shall provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, as well as coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign".

5. The activities of the Centre were focused on the dissemination of information relating to disarmament, peace and security within the African context. Seminars, conferences and studies have been undertaken during the reporting period.

6. Under the Centre's research and study activities, a research project on "the role of border problems in African peace and security" was launched on 15 March 1991.

7. The project was composed of two stages. The first stage consisted of a one-year research and documentation effort on African border issues by five researchers covering the following subregions: Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, and Western Africa. At the end of the first stage, an international workshop attended by 30 experts from within and outside Africa, including researchers and other persons knowledgeable of the issues, was organized by the Centre to examine and adopt the report on the findings of the researchers.

8. Stage two of the project, for which funding is being sought, will consist, inter alia, in organizing programmes of training at regional or subregional levels on the peaceful settlement of various border disputes as outlined in the final report adopted by the workshop. Recipients of such training will include senior governmental officials and other persons that may be involved in the resolution of border crises.

9. The project was considered a commendable initiative, useful to both concerned scholars and policy makers in the field of peace and security. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants expressed the wish that the Regional Centre would continue with this research and policy-oriented activity in order to enhance the understanding and the chances of resolving African border-related problems peacefully. The final document of the workshop was sent to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), African subregional organizations and research and training institutions in the region and elsewhere.

10. From 25 to 27 May 1992, an international conference on "Communications and Crises: the role of the media in the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa" was organized by the Centre at Lomé. It was attended by about 35 senior information and communications officials from OAU member States drawn largely from crises areas, representatives of private and foreign media agencies operating in Africa including the Pan African News Agency (PANA) and representatives of relevant research and training institutions in the region.

11. The conference was opened by the Minister of Youth and Sports of Togo, His Excellency Mr. Horatio B. Freitas, and addressed by Dr. Alfred Eigbefoh, representing the Honourable Minister of Information of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of Information.

12. At the conclusion of the conference, the participants adopted a Final Document in which they expressed the hope that the United Nations would give its support to the implementation of the Document with a view to: (a) developing a code of conduct for the media and media practitioners by the Union of African Journalists; (b) promoting an independent and pluralist press in African countries in the spirit of the Windhoek Declaration; (c) adopting and issuing cards of guarantee to protect journalists from warring parties, while media organizations institute special insurance policies for their journalists who cover conflicts and war; (d) helping in the restructuring of the Pan African News Agency (PANA) in such a manner as to enable it to discharge the functions of information gathering and dissemination; (e) professionalizing the media practice through education, on-the-job training, workshops, seminars and conferences; and (f) fostering a healthy competitive atmosphere through the institution of annual prizes for media organs and media persons who have made important contributions in this respect.

13. On 17 September 1991, in connection with the observance of the International Day of Peace, a conference-debate on the topic "Regional Conflicts in Africa: causes and consequences" was held at Lomé. The conference-debate consisted of a lecture by Dr. Moussa A. Okanla, professor of international law and international relations at Université Nationale du Bénin, and a panel discussion among members of the diplomatic community, scholars and students.

14. The Centre continued to publish a quarterly newsletter entitled "African Peace Bulletin (APB)", which focuses on relevant developments in the field of disarmament and related issues for wide distribution. The Centre also continued to hold informal meetings and brain-storming sessions at its premises once every two weeks, with persons interested in disarmament, peace and security, and development-related issues in Africa.

15. In response to invitations extended to the Centre, the Director of the Centre: (a) participated in an international conference on "Regional Conflict Management in Africa: the role of diplomatic initiatives", organized by the Africa-Soviet-US Cooperation at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) from 29 to 31 October 1991, at Lagos, Nigeria; (b) delivered a

lecture on the "Relationship between democracy, disarmament and development" at an international seminar on "Peace, democracy and development", organized by Association Medias et Paix and held from 4 to 8 November 1991 at Cotonou, Benin; and (c) attended the Conference on "International Humanitarian Law", jointly organized at Nairobi by the Organization of African Unity and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

2. Staffing and finance

16. It may be recalled that, under the terms of the General Assembly resolutions establishing the three regional centres, the basis for their financing has been existing resources and voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 the post of Director of the Centre was established in January 1990 under the regular budget. Since the appointment of the Director in July 1990 the staffing situation at the Centre remains unchanged.

17. The Secretary-General wishes to reiterate that, to ensure the Centre's viability and effective functioning, it is necessary to establish a stable base for its financing. Consequently, voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations and individuals will continue to be needed, especially if the Centre's programme of work is to be maintained and increased, and in view of the continuing financial crises facing the United Nations. The Secretary-General therefore strongly supports the appeals that have been made by the General Assembly to Member States and others to make voluntary contributions to the Centre.

18. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/46/365), voluntary contributions in the amount of $36,747 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of $45,148 has been received as of July 1992. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Cameroon, France, Italy, and Norway, as well as to the Ford Foundation, for their generous contributions.

B. Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean

19. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was established in 1987. It functions under the auspices of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which acts as the focal point for coordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The Centre is located in Lima, Peru. The present report covers the period from August 1991 to July 1992.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

20. The General Assembly, by its resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, decided that the Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the Latin American region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion of economic and social development through appropriate reutilization of available resources, and should coordinate the implementation of the regional activities in Latin America under the World Disarmament Campaign.

21. During the reporting period, from August 1991 to July 1992, the Centre widened and strengthened its contacts and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and other institutions, as well as other United Nations bodies, so as to further the above objectives of the Centre.

22. The Centre continued to serve as a resource centre for students and researchers on issues of peace, security, disarmament and development in the region. United Nations publications were distributed throughout the region, and videos and films on disarmament were made available to universities, schools and institutions. In addition, the Centre has disseminated information concerning grants and scholarships for courses on peace, security and disarmament. Through contacts with universities, the Centre has also promoted undergraduate and graduate studies and research on disarmament.

23. As part of its programme for promoting awareness on regional security issues, the Centre organized, for some 250 senior military officers at the Peruvian Army's War Academy on 26 September 1991, an international seminar on the "Status and Prospects of the Armed Forces in the context of the Current Global Situation". Speakers at the seminar included General Francisco Morales Bermudez, former President of Peru; General Jose Teofilo Goyret, former Director of the University of Belgrano's Institute of Strategic Studies, Argentina; Professor Juan Rial, political researcher at PEITHO, Uruguay and American University in Washington, D.C.; and Ambassador Alejandro San Martín, Director of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations (IPRI). The Centre also sponsored a conference at the Peruvian Institute of International Relations (IPRI) on 26 September 1991, for the Ambassadors and Chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions stationed in Peru. On 27 September 1991, a round-table discussion "on the subjects of regional security and the role of the armed forces in the face of new challenges to regional security" was held with the participation of military attachés accredited in Peru and guest lecturers on the Regional Centre's premises.

24. In commemorating the International Day of Peace and Disarmament Week, the Centre hosted a meeting organized by the Peruvian Permanent Peace Centre on 16 September 1991 and a meeting of the Peruvian Association for Continental Peace (ASOPAZCO) on 23 September 1991. The Centre also took part in a round-table discussion on the subject of peace, with 14 distinguished Peruvian personalities, held on 17 September 1991.

25. The Centre was represented by the Director at the following meetings: (a) a TV programme "Vision International" dealing with international issues, broadcast on 24 September; (b) a round-table discussion on the subject of "Climatological Changes and their Impact on the Environment and Development", organized jointly by the Peruvian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the National Service for Meteorology and Hydrology and the Peruvian Centre for International Studies, held at Lima on 2 August 1991; (c) the conference on "Violence and Security" hosted by the Centre for Studies on Peruvian Reality, held between 12 and 14 September 1991; (d) the annual Conference of RIAL (Programme on Latin American International Relations) held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 3 to 6 November 1991, which brought together important government officials, diplomats, and scholars from Latin America and the United States of America; (e) the annual symposium organized by the Peruvian Centre for International Studies on "Peru: Environment and Development", held from 4 to 7 November 1991; (f) a seminar on "Latin America vis-à-vis the New International Order", jointly organized by the Peruvian Centre for High Military Studies and the Peruvian Institute of Polemology, held on 12 November 1991; (g) the first course offered by the Institute of International Studies, Peruvian Catholic University, on the subject of "Peru's International Relations with Neighbour Countries", focusing on Peru's relations with Ecuador, organized on 22 November 1991; (h) a regional conference of Latin American and Caribbean Research Institutes organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Brazil and the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo, held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 2 and 3 December 1991; (i) the Sixth Forum, entitled "Integration: Peru and the Sub-regional Andean Process" organized by the Permanent Forum on International Relations at Lima, and held on 19 February 1992; (j) a seminar/workshop on "Integration and Alternative Development in Latin America", held at the Andean Group headquarters from 26 to 29 February 1992; (k) a round-table discussion on "The Environment and the Peruvian Sea", jointly organized by the Peruvian Institute of Historical-Maritime Studies and the Peruvian Centre for International Studies on 27 February 1992; and (l) a conference on "Political Changes and Nation-Building", organized by the Centre for Studies on Peruvian Reality and held from 23 to 25 June 1992.

26. Despite financial difficulties, the Centre has managed to maintain a solid presence in the region through its publications programme and contacts with a regional network of public and private institutions. The Centre's major endeavour during the reporting period was the publication of a book entitled "Peace and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Nineties". The book contains papers written by seventeen distinguished experts from different countries of the region, selected and commissioned by the Centre, and covering various important regional security issues within the context of changes unfolding in the international environment. This book was published in February 1992 and is being distributed world wide by the Centre.

27. The book was presented at a ceremony, jointly hosted by the Mexican Embassy in Peru and the Centre, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of

Tlatelolco) on 17 February 1992. The ceremony took place at the premises of the Lima Bar Association, and was attended by senior civilian and military personnel, scholars and the press.

28. In cooperation with the Peruvian Foundation for the Conservation of Nature and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Centre plans to publish the proceedings of the seminar on "Environment, Development and Peace", held at Lima in early 1991, under the Centre's auspices.

29. The Centre is in the process of organizing an international seminar scheduled to be held at Asunción, from 18 to 20 January 1993 on the subject of "Arms Proliferation and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Latin America". The meeting is to be financed by contributions from the Arms Controls and Disarmament Division and the Latin American and Caribbean Branch of the Department of External Affairs of Canada, as well as from the Canadian International Development Agency and from the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies.

2. Staffing and finance

30. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. The post of Director at the senior officer level was established in 1991 under the regular budget, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 44/117 F. A new Director was appointed and assumed duty on 31 July 1991. Since then, the staffing situation remains unchanged. The Director also undertakes the additional functions of the Director of the United Nations Information Centre at Lima.

31. In June 1992, the Centre moved to new leased premises and continues to share these premises with the United Nations Information Centre.

32. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in accordance with the terms on which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre's various work programmes, and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the continued viability and effective functioning of the Centre.

33. Since the submission of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/46/365), voluntary contributions in the amount of $34,813 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of $65,669 has been received as of July 1992. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Colombia, Italy, Norway, Panama and Spain for their generous contributions to the Centre.

C. Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific

34. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, established in 1989, functions under the auspices of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which acts as the focal point for coordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system. The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is entrusted, on an interim basis, with the functions of the Director of the Centre. The Centre is temporarily housed in the UNDP building at Kathmandu, Nepal. The present report covers the period from August 1991 to July 1992.

1. Objectives and activities of the Centre

35. By its resolution 42/39 D of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly decided that the Regional Centre should provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asian region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources, and that it should also coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia under the World Disarmament Campaign.

36. The Centre, which was inaugurated on 30 January 1989, continues to carry out its activities in accordance with the above mandate. However, as both human and financial resources available to the Centre remain extremely limited, its activities involved mainly the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, answering inquiries from the general public, students and non-governmental organizations and organizing one major meeting at Kathmandu a year.

37. A regional meeting, the third in the series, entitled "Non-proliferation and other disarmament issues in the Asia-Pacific region: trends and challenges" was held at Kathmandu from 27 to 29 January 1992. The meeting was opened by the Acting Head of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Johan Nordenfelt, and a welcoming statement was made by the Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala. Thirty-nine participants from Governments, research institutes and the mass media, as well as several observers from non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. In addition to assessing the major changes and emerging trends in the international situation following the end of the cold war, the meeting attempted to identify effective measures to meet the challenges facing the international community in the 1990s in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The meeting also considered regional approaches towards enhancing the disarmament process, security and confidence among States in the Asia-Pacific region. Papers were prepared and presented by the following speakers: Mr. Johannes Bauch (Deputy Commissioner of Arms Control and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bonn, Germany); Ambassador James E. Goodby (Washington D.C., USA); Mr. Mark Hong (Deputy

Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations, New York, USA); Mr. Ji Guoxin (Director of Asia and the Pacific Studies, Shanghai, China); Mr. Joon Num Mak (Senior Analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia); Dr. Seo-Hang Lee (Professor, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Seoul, Republic of Korea); Mr. Li Hyong Chol (Researcher, Institute for Disarmament and Peace, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea); Ambassador Peggy Mason (Department for External Affairs and International Trade, Canada); Mr. Michael Moodie (Assistant Director, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Washington, D.C., USA); Dr. Gerald Segal (The International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); and Professor Henry Trofimenko (Centre for International Security Studies, Maryland University, USA).

38. In addition to plenary sessions, the meeting also met as two working groups. While Working Group I focused on non-proliferation issues, Working Group II dealt with regional approaches towards the disarmament process and security and confidence-building in North-East Asia. The papers presented at the regional conference and the summaries by the moderators of the two working groups, Dr. James Cotton (North-East Asia Programme, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University) for Group I and Mr. Nihal Rodorigo (Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka) for Group II, were subsequently published by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

39. Preparations are under way to convene a further regional meeting at Kathmandu early next year.

2. Staffing and finance

40. In addition to the UNDP Resident Representative who serves as Director ad interim of the Centre, the United Nations Information Officer has also assisted the Centre in carrying out its mandate.

41. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his statement on the programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution 44/117 F (A/C.1/44/L.64/Rev.1), the implementation of operative paragraph 3 of that resolution would entail the establishment under the regular budget of posts of Directors at the Senior Officer level at each of the three regional centres. The establishment of the posts would be phased sequentially and annually over the 1990-1992 period. The post of Director for the Regional Centre located at Kathmandu was established on a temporary basis for two years, effective 1 January 1992.

42. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations may make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize the need for more voluntary contributions, if the Regional Centre is to carry out the mandate entrusted to

it by the Assembly, to ensure its viability and effective functioning. The costs of the three regional meetings held at Kathmandu in the past three years were met largely from extrabudgetary contributions.

43. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly in 1991 (A/46/365), voluntary contributions in the amount of $52,559 have been pledged to the Centre, and a total of $52,474 has been received as of July 1992. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of China, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Thailand for their generous contributions.